

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0232

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GR

SUBJ: NEGOTIATIONS ON GREEK-NATO SECURITY RELATIONSHIP

REF: A. STATE 214488 B. USNATO 169 (NOTAL) C. USNATO 196

1. SYG INFORMED ALLIED AMBASSADORS AT JANUARY 16 DPC THAT HE WOULD CIRCULATE PO ON INFRASTRUCTURE ASPECTS OF GREEK WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY STRUCTURE (REF C). SYG REGARDS PROBLEM OF INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AS ONLY URGENT ITEM INVOLVED IN GREEK WITHDRAWAL. MISSION HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING PO (75/1) PROPOSING GUIDANCE TO NATO INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEES.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

PROPOSED GUIDANCE TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEES
PENDING CLARIFICATION OF RELATIONS WITH GREECE

SINCE THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT LAST SUMMER OF ITS INTENTION TO WITHDRAW GREEK MILITARY FORCES FROM THE NATO INTEGRATED COMMAND, SEVERAL DECISIONS AND ACTIONS REGARDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME HAVE BEEN HELD IN ABEYANCE. SINCE THAT TIME, FOR EXAMPLE, NO FURTHER FUNDS HAVE BEEN ADVANCED TO GREECE FOR THE SUPPORT OF ONGOING PROJECTS AND NONE OF THE
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PROJECTS WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN APPROVED FOR EXECUTION IN GREECE BUT HAD NOT YET BEEN STARTED HAVE SINCE BEEN AUTHORIZED FUNDS ADVANCED TO GREECE DURING THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1974 HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT TO CONTINUE ONGOING PROJECTS UP TO NOW,

BUT WILL SOON RUN OUT. THE INFRASTRUCTURE PAYMENTS AND PROGRESS COMMITTEE MUST BY THE END OF JANUARY ESTABLISH THE PAYSHEET FOR ALL NATIONS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975. IN ADDITION, SLICE XXV, THE SCREENING OF WHICH WAS COMPLETED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, HAS NOT YET BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE DPC FOR APPROVAL. THIS SLICE, WHICH CONTAINS PROJECTS NOT JUST IN GREECE BUT THROUGHOUT THE ALLIANCE, MUST BE APPROVED SOON OR THE OVERALL PROGRAMME WILL BE DELAYED.

2. ALTHOUGH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY INFORMED NATO THAT IT IS PREPARED TO INITIATE DISCUSSION ON THE MANY ISSUES RAISED BY THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT, IT IS LIKELY TO TAKE A CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF TIME BEFORE A FIRM POLICY REGARDING FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN GREECE CAN BE ESTABLISHED. THEREFORE WE MUST PROVIDE INTERIM GUIDANCE TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE AND STAFF. THIS GUIDANCE SHOULD ALLOW INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS OUTSIDE OF GREECE TO CONTINUE, AND SHOULD NOT PREJUDICE FUTURE DECISIONS REGARDING PROJECTS IN GREECE.

3. IN THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT THE DPC APPROVE THE FOLLOWING INTERIM GUIDANCE REGARDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME:

A. UNTIL FURTHER GUIDANCE IS PROVIDED BY THE DPC:

(A) PROJECTS LOCATED IN GREECE WHICH WERE AUTHORIZED PRIOR TO 28TH AUGUST, 1974 SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE FUNDED;

(B) NO FURTHER PROJECTS LOCATED IN GREECE SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED;

(C) THE PAYSHEETS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975 AND THEREAFTER SHOULD BE CALCULATED IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH (A) AND (B) ABOVE.

B. SLICE XXV SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE DPC IN ITS PRESENT FORM, INCLUDING PROJECTS LOCATED IN GREECE. (THESE PROJECTS WOULD THEN BE APPROVED ALONG WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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ALL OTHERS, BUT THEIR AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING WOULD BE HELD IN ABEYANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDANCE IN A ABOVE).

C. THE INFRASTRUCTURE STAFF EXPERTS SHOULD CARRY OUT NORMAL ON-THE-SPOT SCREENING, AS NECESSARY, FOR ALL PROJECTS APPROVED IN SLICE XXV OR EARLIER SLICES FOR LOCATION IN GREECE, SO THAT WE MAY BE PREPARED TO IMPLEMENT THEM WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY SHOULD THEY SUBSEQUENTLY BE AUTHORIZED. IN CONDUCTING THIS SCREENING, HOWEVER, IT MUST BE MADE COMPLETELY CLEAR TO THE GREEK AUTHORITIES THAT THE SCREENING IS A PURELY TECHNICAL STAFF OPERATION AND THAT ANY

AUTHORIZATION OF THE PROJECTS MUST DEPEND UPON
SUBSEQUENT POLICY DECISIONS BY THE DPC.

4. IF THIS APPROACH IS AGREED TO BY THE DPC, I WOULD
PROPOSE TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE GREEK AMBASSADOR POINTING
OUT THAT THE DPC HAS JUSTIFIED THIS INTERIM POLICY ON THE BASIS
OF ITS EXPECTATION THAT THE PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDING WILL BE
CONTINUED, WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR THEIR ORIGINAL
NATO PURPOSE.

5. I SHOULD ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THIS IS AN INTERIM
WORKING ARRANGEMENT WHICH SHOULD IN NO WAY PREJUDICE UPCOMING
NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND THAT WE ARE
LOOKING TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO TAKE SPECIFIC INITIATIVES
TOWARDS SUCH NEGOTIATIONS.

END TEXT

3. COMMENT: MISSION WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT SHG FINESSE THIS
ISSUE BY SIMPLY SEEKING DPC APPROVAL OF SLICE XXV AND LEAVING
UNSPOKEN THE UNDERSTANDING THAT NO NEW PROJECTS IN GREECE WOULD
BE BROUGHT TO INFRASTRUCTURE PAYMENTS &
PROGRESS COMMITTEE. THIS HAS BEEN OUR POSITION FROM OUTSET
(REF A). ALTHOUGH SYG IS OBVIOUSLY RELUCTANT TO ISOLATE GREEKS BY
THIS KIND OF "SILENCE PROCEDURE." WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO KEEP
DPC DISCUSSION AT LOW KEY. MEANWHILE, MISSION WILL REPORT GREEK AND
OTHER REACTIONS TO PO AS SOON AS WE LEARN THEM. BRUCE

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